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REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application.

The applicants respectfully request the admittance of this amendment, to place the claims in a better condition for allowance or appeal. Claim 5 is amended to remove the redundant term "each". The applicants respectfully suggest that this amendment adds no new matter, and does not require an additional search.

The Office action is identified as a Final Office action. The applicants respectfully assert that the finality of this Office action is premature, and respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of this finality. MPEP 706.07(a) specifically states that "second or any subsequent actions on the merits shall be final, *except where the examiner introduces a new ground of rejection* that is neither necessitated by applicant's amendment of the claims nor based on information submitted in an information disclosure statement filed during the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.97(c) with the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p)." The grounds of rejection in the current Office action are different from the prior grounds of rejection. The applicants' amendment of the claims on 23 July 2003 were grammatical and non-substantive, and cannot be said to have necessitated these new grounds of rejection; and, the applicants have not filed an information disclosure statement with the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p). The applicants respectfully request that the finality of this Office action be withdrawn.

The Office action rejects claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claim 5 is amended herein to clarify the language.

The Office action rejects claims 1-11 and 13-16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Merlino et al. ("Broadcast News Navigation using Story Segmentation", hereinafter Merlino) and Zhang et al. ("Automatic Parsing of News Video", hereinafter Zhang). The applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The applicants specifically claim a video classification system that comprises a story segment identifier that identifies story segments in a video stream, and a classifier

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that associates one or more classifications to each story segment. As defined by the applicants, story segments are distinguished from newscaster (anchor) segments and advertisement segments.

Both Merlino and Zhang teach a story segment identifier that identifies story segments in a video stream. The Office action acknowledges that Merlino does not teach a classifier that associates a classification to each story segment.

The Office action relies upon Zhang for teaching a classification system that classifies each story segment. The applicants respectfully traverse this characterization of Zhang. The Office action states: "Zhang discloses automatic parsing ... wherein the news video is partitioned into individual video shots; the partitioned video shots are then classified into anchorperson shots and news shots" and cites page 47, section 2.2 of Zhang for this teaching (Office action, page 4, lines 5-7).

The applicants respectfully maintain that Zhang's classification of the video shots into anchorperson shots and news shots correspond to the applicants' claimed story segment identifier that identifies story segments within a video stream. That is, the applicants' claimed story segments correspond exactly with Zhang's news shots, and Zhang's classification corresponds exactly to the applicants' parsing of the video stream into anchorperson segments and story segments. Zhang does not teach another classifier that classifies each of Zhang's news shots, corresponding to the applicants' claimed classifier that classifies each story segment.

Because neither Merlino nor Zhang, individually or collectively, teach a classifier that classifies story segments in a video stream, as specifically claimed in claim 1, upon which each of the other rejected claims depend, the applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-11 and 13-16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Merlino and Zhang.

The Office action rejects claim 12 under 3 U.S.C. 103(a) over Merlino, Zhang, and Wactlar et al. (USP 5,835,667, hereinafter Wactlar). The applicants respectfully traverse this rejection based on the remarks above regarding Merlino, Zhang, and claim 1,
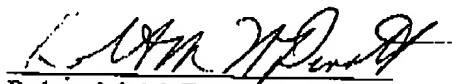
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upon which claim 12 depends, and respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration of this rejection.

In view of the foregoing, the applicant respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the present application to be in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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